Austin City Concil Transcripts - 8/20/2012

[10:04:20]

I'm austin mayor lee fingwell.

A quorum is present so I'll call this special called meeting on august 20, 2012, at 10:07 a.m.

We're meeting in the boards and commission rooms, 201 west second street, austin, texas.

On our agenda, items 1, 2 and 3 have already been completed so we'll go to item 4, presentation of the city's proposed budget for fiscal year 2012 and 13.

We've all had the material for about a week now, so the way I'd like to proceed is after a brief introduction by the budget officer, and then we can go directly to questions.

All the department directors are here, beginning with parks and recreation and then library and health and human services and finally planning and development review.

So with that, I will turn it over to the budget director.

>> Good morning, mayor and members of the council.

Deputy cfo.

We had initially agendized

this presentation for last

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15th,

And the discussion about the

bond program went a little

bit long so we got pushed

until today.

That's why the presentation

says august 15th on the

date.

There were a couple items

that we did get to on

AUGUST 15th.

The first one being setting

the maximum tax rate.

That was not adopting that

[10:06:00]

tax rate, that was just
setting the maximum the
council would consider as we
go through budget
proceedings and council
chose to adopt a maximum tax
5 cents per 100of
taxable value.

We set the hearing for fiscal year 2012 and 13, the first of the public hearings will be tomorrow and the second will be on august -I'm sorry, not tomorrow, the first will be on august 23rd and the second
WILL BE ON AUGUST 30th.

And then the part of the
work session we did not get
to last week was the
departmental discussions,
and so we have here today
ready to respond to any
questions you may have about
their presentation parks and
recreation, library, health
and human services, as well
as planning and development
review.

We're going to be back
before council on wednesday,
AUGUST 22nd, FOR A FULL
Day of budget presentations.

We'll have presentations

as well as austin research recovery, code compliance and we'll end the day with

austin water utility and energy.

We'll be back on the 23rd and the 30th with public hearings on the budget and tax rates as well as various utility rates that are proposed to increase, and then our budget readings and adoptions are scheduled for september 10th through 12th.

That's the remainder of the budget calendar and unless there are any questions I'm going to turn it over to parks and recreation director sara hencery.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Thank you.

You are welcome to bring all the help you need.

>> I brought it.

Good morning, mayor and members of council, and I'm going to run through this really quickly so there's plenty of time for everyone else.

I'll start out just real
quickly with our source of
funds which, again, golf
fund, of course,, our c.i.p.

Reimbursements and grants.

The majority of our department's budget is

[10:08:00]

general fund.

Our uses of our funds -- i need to do this.

Our parks planning development and operations, support services, other, which is transfers, and then, of course, community services takes the bulk of it, about 54.5%.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Sara, I don't know if you
heard this or not, but we're
going to go directly to q
and a.

>> Okay.

We'll just leave it alone.

>>

>> Mayor Leffingwell: So questions on the parks department budget?

Councilmember morrison.

>> Morrison: Sara, one of
the questions that arose
last year was the new fee
structure for use of the
parks, and it was a
structure that it's a
certain fee up to 600 people
as part of the event, and
then the fee changes for
over 600.

And one of the issues that had arisen is that discontinue use, I would say, nature of us had jumped.

If you had 600 people there's one fee.

If 601, you have another fee.

There was a response that said if I recall properly something to the effect if we had to do it per person it would be more expensive per person.

Anyway, I'm still hearing feedback from that especially -- well, not necessarily especially, but secondarily from no one nonprofits
who are having a hard time
paying these fees.

I wonder if there's -- two things.

One, could we give some more thought to trying to smooth that out in a fair way so that 600, 601 jump doesn't happen.

And then secondly, do we have different -- a different fee structure for nonprofits or is it the same nonprofit and for profit?

>> This is angela means, our

[10:10:03]

budget and finance manager, let her answer, but always we can look at that.

I think the resolution that was recently -- or the one that's coming forward about looking at rental fees or special events, I think that's something we can look at across the city and looking at the different jump of fees but also number of users, nonprofits, possibly separating out the maintenance fee, that may help some because I think in some cases we want to make sure we're protecting the investment of the city from a maintenance perspective,

but we don't want to make it so cost prohibitive groups can't use the park.

So angela.

>> Good morning, angela means.

I would like to say that
what we've done in the
department over the last six
months [inaudible] how we
calculate our fees and
looking at the cost of
service.

And so we're doing a more indepth analysis on all of our fees.

And so this is one that we are taking a look at.

Not only just how we calculate the fee, but how affordable it's for the services that the individuals will enjoy.

So we are not -- they are at this time we are approximately 60% complete of taking a look at the majority of our community services fees and we hope to have that assignment done at the end of this month, early september.

>> Morrison: So in the budget proposal that we have up in our offices, are the fees the same as last year's just from --

>> yes.

>> Morrison: And you said that you hoped to have it finished, I'm sorry, by the end of september?

>> That's correct.

We've been working on it the last six months.

We have run into a couple of snags just because it's very extensive, but we're not there at this time.

>> Morrison: So do you
expect you might have a
recommendation that comes
out of it to change -- so i
presume -- maybe one
scenario is we adopt the

fees as they are, but then look forward to adjusting them early in the fiscal year?

>> I think that's probably the best way.

[10:12:00]

The other thing is we want to have to work with our friends in bbudget office to make sure that we're not taking away revenue that's anticipated and already calculated into our budget and then coming up with something that's less than that, having to find reductions somewhere else.

I think there is a way and what we want to do is look at this very holisticly.

Some of our parks are in very high demand, some of others don't get used.

We've looked at the maintenance fee versus cost of rental.

This is something that could be sort of intertwined into sort of the upcoming efforts that we may be looking at for the special events and then use of parks, how we balance that with how we maintain that park and just having somebody from a group of nonprofit individuals who

are there, hours of use.

We have to look at all those things.

But I think like she said it is cumbersome because we're looking at number of hours, number of people, the day, saturdays and sundays are our biggest days, and then how we balance that with keeping the park open for public use, keeping it open, and then having rentals.

So it's almost like a matrix that we'll have to do but we can always change it after the fact.

>> Morrison: Are you saying you will also take

into consideration, think about could there be a different fee schedule for nonprofits?

>> Yes, we will absolutely look at that.

>>

>> Morrison: Thank you so much.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: I would like to follow up on that.

Originally the rationale for doing this in the first place was two-fold, I think.

I think one was to make sure the parks are available to

some degree at least to the general public, and another was damage, actual damage done to the park.

So is there a component in there aside from the fee to make restoration?

I know there's normal wear and tear, there's abnormal wear and tear, and there's

[10:14:01]

also traumatic damage,
people pulling obstacles
across the grass and so
forth.

How do we account for that?

>> Mayor, that's a point we're looking at very seriously now.

That is that we have a deposit we try to hold if there are severe damages, but the questions that now are being raised for us is that enough money when you have complete turf damage and it's not.

Two, if we have to resod or re-seed.

The maintenance fee is not adequate across the board.

If we are going to look at this, we are looking at this completely holisticly and perhaps there's a less fee
for noone profit to use it,
but a maintenance fee and
certainly a deposit that is
reasonable but certainly
takes care of any damages
that occur because we have
had an issue where we had
ruts that were -- created in
the park.

We lost some trees that were damaged severely that they died.

And we're talking about more money than what was in the deposit in general.

So we want to balance that and that may be where we can -- we're able to do that.

It's a very good question, it's something we need to look at.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: I do
think that's a major factor
because park maintenance is
one of the areas where we
have a severe lack of funds
to apply to that.

And when someone comes in and does extraordinary damage, there has to be some way to recoup the cost of doing that.

Councilmember riley i believe was next and then councilmember martinez.

>> Riley: Thanks, mayor,

and thank you, sara, for being here.

I just have a few questions.

First on page 80 of your presentation, there's a note for south district parks ground maintenance and then the first bullet point is parker lane tract which we acquired just recently.

It's a two-acre tract.

And there have been a number of questions from the community about what we're

[10:16:01]

planning to do with that.

Can you just elaborate on what's in store there?

>> Well, we have limited funds as we acquired that property just not too long ago, we have limited funds to do some very small improvements, and that is to kind of physically clean it up and put small improvements in it.

And then, of course, the one is going to cover both parks.

But we're just now -- we have to get into it, we have to sit down and talk to

stakeholders, find out what
their top priorities are as
far as development, and i
think from a capital
standpoint, and I need to go
back and look, I believe
it's very little amenities
because they didn't want a
lot of amenities.

It's a neighborhood park and they didn't want this to be seen as a big destination park.

But our first chore is get it cleaned up and in good shape.

>> Riley: Okay.

So not a lot of infrastructure going in.

>> Not a lot of

infrastructure.

I would like to follow up and tell what you infrastructure and I will do that and send this to the city manager's office so everyone can see that.

>> Riley: Great.

One other thing that I don't see in the presentation is project saltillo.

There's better questions on this subject about the possibility of adding a half-time employee or making other adjustments that would make it easier for folks to

make use of plaza saltillo for events.

A couple ideas came up as to how we could do that, adding smaller time blocks or lowering the electricity fee, adding a maintenance fee.

Could you tell us where we are on all that?

>> Right now we have a staff team that is looking at this.

That, again, goes back to
the question both
councilmember morrison and
the mayor talked to me about
which is the maintenance
fee, it being able to help

us maintain that area.

It's an area we're not able to get to like we want to.

[10:18:01]

We're not doing so much
mowing but we pick up the
trash, blow it out and then
we go and there's not an
ongoing presence there which
does present some problems
sometimes.

By looking at a maintenance fee that would be more applicable to the users, and I think there's a lot of people that want to use this area and it's certainly conducive to that, we might
be able to fund a part-time
person that would be more
visible, which would mean
when there are events,
someone would be present,
make sure it looks like for
an event whether it's a
celebration or some type of
event, and then keep the
trash picked up and keep it
looking nice.

The other thing is by
working with maybe some
other nonprofits that might
want to use the park, for
instance, maybe the farmers
market, we believe we might
be able to form a
partnership where we could
have them help us in some
landscaping and some work,

but also some eyes and ears on the park which will help keep it -- the more people in a park, the less we see a problem.

The more we can encourage partnerships from nonprofits the better off we'll be.

It's an area we need to focus on, have more staff presence, but we need to encourage more of a partnership where we can create more of a positive impact and keep it open and clean.

>> Riley: I appreciate your efforts on that.

Do you expect we need to

make some changes in the budget?

>> Right now we just
literally take a staff crew
that drives by, they empty
trash, pick it up.

The problem with some of the areas that have higher visibility and we start to see increase in use is when you can only get to it once a day or once every two days, the trash sits.

If it blows, it's blowing all over the neighborhood and the businesses.

We're not creating a very good sense of community.

We do need some presence there, but I think between a half-time person or part-time person with some partnering that we need to develop, we can make it work.

[10:20:00]

>> Riley: Okay.

With the budget as it stands stands now.

>> We would have to add some help, maybe some temporary seasonal.

>> Riley: Not far from

there is the

mexican-american cultural center.

There's been a lot of interest in that.

Will it's been understaffed since its opening and it's been about five years back in 2007.

The board for the macc has repeatedly raised terms about the availability of supporting staffing there and I understand the manager morris, has identified particular positions as priorities.

I do see on page 9 of your presentation a mention of 1.5 FTEs FOR [INAUDIBLE].

With that be housed at the mace?

>> Yes, it would.

>> Riley: That would cover -- that would obviously help.

There was also concern, interest in custodial or maintenance person, technology coordinator, sounds like that position might cover three of those bullet points but not custodial.

>> One of the things I was able to do, bert lumbreras and I met with stakeholders on a number of occasions.

I pulled a person from another position specifically to address the issues related to custodial service.

We went back to the board and asked from a staff perspective, we felt like keeping the facility clean and in good working condition was important and they agreed so allowed us to use that position for the goal.

Truthful we have the same situation at several of our locations so by adding the 5, by moving this position over, it gets us in the queue sort of begin to see

where we are.

[10:22:00]

We need to do more program to go get more people there and we are doing that now.

As we begin to grow, we can come back next year's budget to look at additional resources, but this is going to make a huge dent helping us.

>> Riley: And I know the board has also asked we consider a -- making use of the parking places in the lot and that could provide another source of funds.

>> That would be huge.

>> Riley: That would be available in the next few months.

>> That will help us because
I think you are going to see
the parking area will be
completely utilized and that
bit of funding in addition
to paying off those meters,
the additional funding going
back to the center will
certainly help us fund, i
think it will help us fund
another full-time position,
quite frankly.

>> Riley: Great.

I also wanted to ask about

the african-american
resource advisory
commission, that commission
has asked that we provide
funding to support the
efforts to develop programs
and service to maintain
staff at an american
cultural heritage district
which is apparently a knew
thing that's come up and
there's a lot of community
interesting in seeing what
we could do about.

That have you looked at the possibility providing any support in the budget for that?

>> Honestly I have not and we haven't put any positions in there.

And that would -- I'll be real honest and frank, we would have to add positions to be able to do that and do it justice.

As you can see just from looking at the barrientos center, we can't build a facility or have an area providing staffing for it.

I don't want to build expectations and not be able to do that right.

>> Riley: Right.

There's been a lot of interest in additional full-time employees for

forestry division as well as maintenance position.

How is the forestry position looking in the current budget?

>> Honestly, I will say this

[10:24:01]

and this is a presentation i
did with the audit and
finance committee, we have
enough foresters to take
care of our trees every 90
years.

This is not good and it's certainly not a good standard for us in this

city.

We are creative and we have an outstanding group of people who are dealing with more of an emergency and [inaudible] issues than we are maintaining our trees.

It's every city park we have in our system.

We're busy answering
emergency calls more than we
are taking care of our
inventory of trees.

We have over 300,000 trees in the the inventory so that is once every 90 years getting to awful those.

It's not good, but we're

going to continue to chip
away at things, no pun
intended, and trying to get
to them.

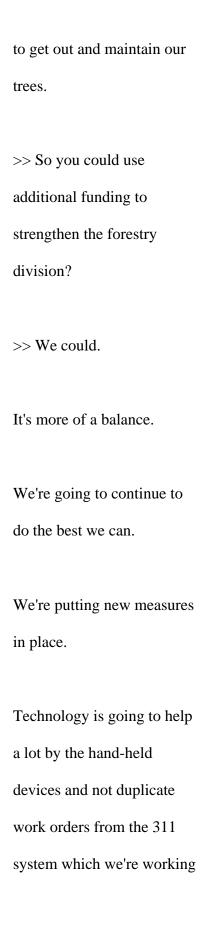
Staff work really hard.

They are on call on the weekends.

But when we have a tree go down that goes across public land or a public street, our crews are called out.

It's during the day, night, weekends, and that's where they spend the majority of times is 311 calls and calls that go direct to parks and recreation.

It's rae we're actually able



on.

A lot of it has to do with utilizing technology and having that technology.

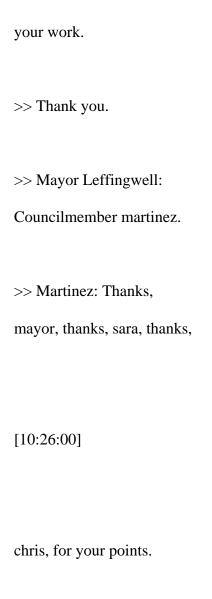
Having the trained staff
that we have and hopefully
incrementally adding to
those staff members.

The more we can do that, the better off we're going to be.

>> Riley: In the meantime,
we'll be making progress by
making better use of
technology.

>> That's right.

>> Riley: Thanks for all



They were many of the same points I wanted to bring up so I don't repeat all of those, but I do want to ask some questions about some specific facilities within the parks department.

And one, starting with the facility we used yesterday that I think is really just a beautiful part of fiesta gardens and wanted to just kind of tee up what the future is hold in store for the stage area, the grandstands leading down to the lagoon.

I just think it's one of
those really special things
that we have that obviously
we've not put much
investment in over the
years.

Is it anywhere on our radar screen with the redevelopment of holly shores?

>> Yes, it is in the -- as a matter of fact, we're asking all those questions and addressing those with public input to the holly shores plan.

The part there is we have the money to do the master plan, we don't have the money to implement it.

So we're going to come up
with what I believe from
what meetings we've had so
far some really innovative
and creative ideas that's
going to take bond dollars,
but I think the other
exciting part is as we work
towards this is the matching
private funds to help us

redevelop this area.

>> Martinez: That's great because that's a perfect segue into the next part of my discussion.

I'm glad you brought up
umloff I'll state publicly
if you can come to agreement
of substantial funding as a
partner, then I would
certainly hope we would
entertain a longer term
lease.

And we're hearing this not just from umloff, from other organizations because what they say to us is they are more than willing to raise hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars to

improve those existing

[10:28:00]

facilities that they use and utilize, but they can't raise that kind of money without a longer commitment.

>> I agree with you 100%.

Actually I'm glad to hear you say that because, as you know, we did that with the sunshine camp for a 50-year lease and we want to work with our legal department and do, you know, do the due diligence.

But I agree, they can't go

out and raise \$5 million without a longer term lease.

And the sunshine camp was only -- they were raising 3.5 million.

Weya has committed to doing their great work.

From a staff perspective we want to do what's right and we believe the only way we're going to survive is with these partnerships.

We'll bring to you what we believe is a have good proposal and we're hopeful we'll have a proposal within the year so we have this one-year gap funding and then we're able to work with

them to turn things over and have a great partnership like we have with the bottom half of the land.

>> Martinez: It's my
understanding since we've
been gifted the house and
the studio, there are dozens
if not hundreds of pieces
that are not on display,
that are stored.

>> That's correct, in a climate controlled storage area.

There's some work we need to
do with the property, of
course, because they are
very interested and we're
fortunate to have a group
like this to want to help

us, otherwise we would be asking for a huge amount of money to have to deal with this.

>> Martinez: Great.

So the other part of the conversation that I want us to start as a council, it's been brought to at least my attention, I don't know if any of you have been approached, councilmember riley brought up the african-american heritage district, but there's other -- you know, the macc, carver, now the asian resource center this year.

A question has been posed to me as to whether or not --

because of the high demand to rent these facilities and utilize them for private and/or commercial events,

[10:30:01]

whether or not it would make sense for those culture centers and even african-american heritage district to be -- this is not an insult, I don't know how to say this any other way, to be better placed under egrso or something that is different than a parks and rec department.

Because what we saw in the macc and what we had to do

last year is totally change
the fee structure so that
cultural events really got
preferential treatment in
terms of fees because that's
really what it was built
for.

But because it's such an iconic facility, people want to hold concerts and events and that's in super high demand.

As you mentioned, we need to raise more money to keep operating and growing and doing the things we want.

So I'm just going to tee
that up as a conversation
that I'd like to have
whether or not this council

there as a policy or
whether the manager gets
there, I think it's
something we have to think
about because we're not
going to be able to fund the
african-american heritage
district out of parks
budget.

It's just not there.

But we're going to want to fund it.

They've already approached us and asked chris and I to sponsor a resolution which I'm happy to do, but the resolution puts it in your hands, city manager, and says help us identify funding and based the parks

budget it's going to be very difficult to do.

I'm willing to go down that road and have that conversation with you.

>> Councilmember, just so you know, that doesn't offend me and we've asked the same questions.

We want these facilities to
be where they need to be
whether it's with us or
another city department,
we'll continue to be
supportive and do what we
need to do, even if it's a
partnership, if we do
programming and they
actually operate and manage
our fundraising arm or

whatever.
We are that's what we do.
But I want you to know it
doesn't offend us at all.
We've asked the same
questions, where sit best
going to be served.
And I do need to mention one
thing, umloff is in here but
[10:32:01]
it's not in the budget.
The money we have listed is
unfunded item for umloff.

>> Martinez: And then the
last one, councilmember
riley brought it up, where
are we implementing fee
parking at the macc and what
does that agreement look
like in terms of sharing the
revenue?

>> This is kind of exciting and you may see more things coming from this one example.

We're waiting -- we want to do this holisticly with the whole rainey street effort instead of come in piecemeal.

The board has approved this and send a resolution.

We're ready.

Rob spiller, we've worked
with him and steve
grassville, they are ready
to go putting the meters in,
but they want to come in,
sue edwards wants to come in
with a proposal on rainey
street.

That also includes the mexican-american culture center.

- >> Martinez: Thank you.
- >> Mayor Leffingwell:

Councilmember tovo.

>> Tovo: Last year in our budget there was a proposal that was adopted to make the botanical gardens a fee
based -- to charge an
entrance fee, and I wanted
to ask you and this may be
something I need to submit
some formal budget questions
about, how has that worked
out?

Has attendance dropped?

Has it moved the kind of revenue anticipated?

>> We had a slow start and that was part of logistics.

What we thought we could do.

It wasn't working so well so we had to take a step back.

We're now actively taking in

the funds and I don't think
we've seen a drop in
attendance, but I think
we're rethinking is that the
best way to do it versus
we're working with rob
spiller to do an analysis of
metering.

But we're also looking at zilker and the fact we take money at the front of the park and backup traffic on

[10:34:01]

to barton springs.

So, again, we are trying to look at this more holisticly.

We're looking at steve grassfield and rob spiller to look at barton springs in general, zilker park and how we back up traffic, under moe pack within issues with department of transportation and sort of the haphazard parking that happens and then there's issues related to safety.

And then zilker botanical gardens and under mopac as well.

People get blocked in.

Obviously it would come back to council, but we're rethinking is taking money for an entrance fee to pay for coming in the gardens is that the best way, or is it metering it and not having to have a person there which would take away the expense of a person to collect the money.

>> Tovo: So it sounds like, and again I'll submit a question and get a sense what that has generated in terms of funds, but there was also a conversation we had about whether the botanical gardens, if we blasted on and approved the request to charge a fee, which we did, whether there was an opportunity to have one free day a month, say on sundays, so members of the public could come in that

day once a month for free.

The line item wasn't large,
but we didn't have the money
so we didn't adopt that
provision, but I know that
you had expressed a
commitment to making sure to
loo fundraising
opportunities and wondered
if you had success.

>> We actually have.

It's not in the way of
fundraising dollars, but
when things are televised
and we had the company tbg
contact us and they are
doing free work for us as
far as sort of master
planning the area, working
with the board, which they

were very excited about
because this -- it's much
needed to look at some areas
that we need to renovate.

So they have offered services at no cost to help

[10:36:00]

us look at some of the
priority areas we need to
take care of first and they
are working with staff and
the board to prioritize
those and come up with a
plan.

That would have cost us, i
don't know, in the thousands
of dollars that we're not

having to pay for.

And then we sat down -- i sat down with them and kimberly McNealy on two occasions to talk about setting up a strategic plan and then looking for donors or groups to help us move this forward.

So we have done these things and we haven't finished it, but these are some of the things we're working on so the board can actively go out and pursue some dollars to be able to make improvements and -- and offer better programs.

The other thing we have been able to do is we're working

very closely with watershed protection and the possibility of bringing over the ampet they have and working to set up actual live projects that would stay on site for long periods of times.

For instance, rain water collection.

People don't know how to do that.

You can buy the barrel but they are not sure how to set things up.

We're working closely with watershed protection for examples of things you can do at your own house, no

cost, how we do stream bank restoration and other things for educational purposes.

Donna is also now on television on ynn doing some -- going out and visiting people's houses that have drought resistant, drought tolerant planting and now people are seeing that.

Then we have other ideas of growing our own succulents and things that we put in parks instead of some of the water -- heavily used plants that drink a lot of water.

We're doing a lot of different things and we're working with the board to try to come up with sort of
a strategic plan of our
priority areas, and they
know fundraising is going to
have to be a large part of

[10:38:00]

that and the board is willing to do that.

We're working with them on that.

>> Tovo: That's great.

I appreciate you telling us about all of those programs.

It sounds like a lot of exciting initiatives

underway.

I would just say especially
if the botanical gardens is
going to serve this in a new
way, a new educational
function, I think it becomes
even more critical that
austin residents have access
to it one day a week for
free.

Especially because it is going to educate -- educate young people and parents about concentration strategies that really serve the community's purpose i think in allowing them to access that.

It's one of the things that happened last year in the

budget that made me think because it is a change when you have a resource like the bow taken ial gardens that everyone has enjoyed.

It's featured in a couple of children's books, but one of our residents has written and it's just unfortunate i think when it becomes something people can only access by paying.

And so I justment you to continue as they work in all these areas, I want you to continue to see other priorities allowing members of our community to come in at least once a month for free so it's something everybody in the city can

enjoy.

>> The other thing, that's
why we want to relook at
this because when they are
involved and if we're doing
programming for camps for
kids, you don't want to
charge somebody to come in,
they've already paid for the
camp.

Look at it deeper, if you are dropping someone off, you don't have to pay for parking.

Maybe is answer is the parking meters because if you are going to stay for a while you pay.

But if you are dropping off

you don't pay.

Right now you come in you have to pay and it's a little double dipping we don't think is necessary.

>> Tovo: That's great.

[10:40:04]

>> Issue with one of the
senior centers, some members
of that community came
forward and said that their
programming had been
[inaudible] and we talked
about it in one of our work
sessions, it had to do with
a volunteer who was doing
the programming who had left

and I know parks department
was going to work with
health and human services to
try to rectify that
situation and get somebody
back on board who would
could programming for
members of that community
and I wanted an update on
that.

>> Carlos is here.

This was at the health and human services site where we were coming in and offering services and the beloved staff member was leaving, which we always have a problem with, which is a good news, bad news.

They are a great staff

member, but when they leave,
we can't hardly fill their
shoes because they are so
popular.

Carlos.

>> Tovo: If you need to get back to me, that's okay.

>> We'll get back, but i
know we've worked hard to
solve it and I think we
have, but this is one site
that we'll have the ongoing
problem with all of our
centers when we lose that
kind of quality staffing and
then have to replace.

This was a volunteer actually.

>> Tovo: I was going to say I thought it was a volunteer and that was part of the challenge, it was a lot of work to ask for a volunteers but on the other hand you have men and women going to that center for years who wanted to continue the programs. >> We will follow up. We worked diligently to get this solved. I think we've solved it -it is solved great great great. Great.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: And

we are going to have a briefing from health and human services this morning if we get to it.

>> Tovo: That's great.

>> So it's a paid position

now, it's a part-time paid

position, and it's being

staffed by meals on wheels,

but it's the same individual

that was responsible before.

So we have some continuity.

>> Tovo: Thank you for following up on that.

I know that was an important

[10:42:01]

issue for many people who had been attending there for years.

Let's see, a couple quick questions about just the way the information is presented.

Would you please explain, and apologies if you did this for me last year, what is the recreational enterprise fund and what is contained within that and i guess what isn't?

>> The recreational
enterprise fund used to
consist of our softball fun
and the recreational -- that

is no longer.

Everything now is in the general fund except for the golf enterprise fund.

>> Tovo: Okay.

So that appears on our budget overview just because it was around in 2009 but is no longer.

>> That's correct, they are just giving you a history for the last several years.

>> Tovo: And I notice in
the summary comments you
address grants, but, you
know, while that actually
many as far as grant
programs are expected to

continue, but I thought i
saw in a lot of categories
that some of the grants were
actually going down.

Maybe it was in the budget overview.

On the other hand, I know -I see it in the budget
overview it looks like it's
dropped from about 474 down
to this year 377, 377,000,
and there's quite a jump
anticipated for next year.

I wondered if you could address that.

Where are those grants coming from?

Is that a result of the

grant writer?

I know you've hired a grant writer in the last few

[10:44:01]

years.

>> It's been vacant for a while because we lost our grant writer.

But we are just getting more keen into what grants we can use and, quite frankly, we're partnering with other city departments to look at grants that we can do together.

And many times it may be a small grant from us that we're matching with another city department.

We have the food grant that
we use with our programs
with the summer youth
program.

We're looking at some grants through the national integration parks association and we're working with some of our friends in the community groups, neighborhood associations with matching grants.

It's just coming from a variety of areas, but we're trying to maximize the use

of everything we can.

>> Tovo: That's terrific.

1 million

proposed grant fund, are those grants have you been awarded or are those grants that have been applied for?

How southern, I guess, is that funding in.

>> We're still in the process of applying and we're very hopeful, but there's always that risk you did not receive the grant.

But we are very aggressive this year in going after our grants to assist parks and recreation.

>> Tovo:1

represents grants alied for.

>> That's correct.

One is for the texas parks and wildlife grant for \$500,000, the boating.

>> Tovo: and
apologies again if you've
explained this dozens of
times to my colleagues, but
can you tell me what expense
refunds mean?

>> Yes.

Expense refunds are a combination of things.

We have agreements with

they are or we are providing services to them and we are refunded dollars for that. We also have a large c.i.p. Expense refund. We have current parks staff that works on our capital projects and they are refunded by the capital funds. So that's the bulk of those. [10:46:00] >> Tovo: So that's not -when it appears under, say,

other city departments where

recreational programs, those don't count fees coming in from participants and those activities.

Those are strictly like internal funds moving back and forth?

>> That's correct.

>> Tovo: Thank you.

I wanted to ask you about some of the performance measures on 247, please.

There was quite a jump in the right direction from the number of registered participants in senior programs from 8,000, which was the anticipated, to the 116,000 estimated.

And the actual number in 2010 was 11,000.

If you go from 2010 from 1,000 up to 116,000 the following year is a pretty big jump and I wondered if you could describe what kind of -- does that represent programs, funding, different kinds of accounting.

It looked like a relatively new measure, but ordinary progress.

>> My one answer on this is kimberly McNealy.

She has turned a corner for

us when it comes to

recreational services and

looking at based on need,

based on the areas of

highest need, based on user

satisfaction and she's gone

out and talked to every

single advisory group and

neighborhood group and asked

questions about what are

your needs, what are we

missing, what are we not

doing.

In two words, kimberly

McNEALY AND THE STAFF HAVE

Tried to turn this around

and answering needs based on

what areas have asked for.

>> Tovo: That's fabulous.

So you have increased by

almost 100,000 the number of senior participants in programming.

>> It's just -- community
gardens has helped because
we're getting them more

[10:48:00]

active.

Everything from youth,
preschool, all the way up,
we're starting to see a huge
interest in our programs
where we saw -- if you
remember last year, I talked
about we need to do a better
job of programming and do
quality not quantity and

that it is where we've folk
you had and that has made a
huge difference and we're
having to add more classes
because we're getting more
people want to go take these
kind of programs.

Have you noticed, since you mentioned these programs, i did want to talk a little about -- you mentioned adding new classes and things.

In one of our work sessions
we did have a discussion
about some of the cost
containment strategies that
were reducing some of the
senior programming and youth
programming and I don't -this kind of high level

detail doesn't necessarily allow us to assess where that might be happening.

>> Actually the budget
office worked with us to
sort of help true up some of
those costs and that's why
you don't see the reduction
in services, you see the
additional amount of money
that we're getting in the
history, arts and nature
area and those are the areas
we were having to make
adjustments for sort of
reductions.

We were able to sort of level that off now.

Obviously we are going to have to continue to look at

cost of doing service based on the service, but it's a lot easier to charge the right fee when the program is quality.

And what we were
experiencing was when we
didn't have such a high
quality, but we were not
very consistent with our
fees either.

So now we've looked at a consistent fee schedule, we've also looked at not turning anyone away from areas of need and we still have to have the number of limit like 50 children in a program based on size of the facility or the room.

But it's made a huge
difference by looking at
quality over quantity, cost
of service and then doing it
right and that's why this
trues us up, sort of gets us
where we need to be and what
does it cost to do the

[10:50:00]

service and if there's a full-time employee already is there th, we don't have to duplicate the cost.

If it's temporary seasonal,
helping with camp programs,
we have to put that in
whether taking trips,
educational programs.

But I think next year will
be our better year to look
at our numbers and see what
we are, but I think what
kimberly has been able to do
with the great staff, we've
been able to look at this
across the board, make sure
we're balancing what we
offer and it's quality and
reasonable and affordable
price and no one is turned
away based on the fact they
can't afford the program.

>> Tovo: And I completely appreciate and applaud that approach.

That's the right place to be in.

My concern is when we have increased the number of registered participants in senior programs by 100,000 in one year, are we increasing the funding for those programs or does that mean you have to come up with budget constrainment in other areas because I want to make sure we have that conversation.

My intent is I want to be sure we have a conversation as council if there are going to be cost containment strategies as there were last year that are going to result in program cuts in our senior programming or our youth programming.

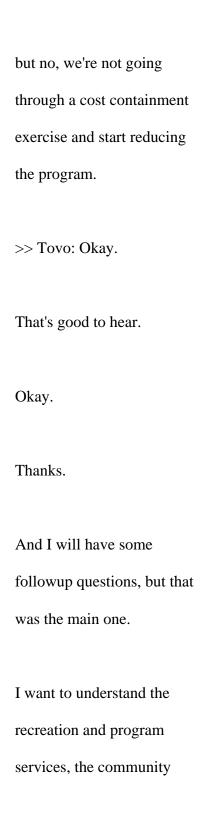
I want to have that
conversation during the
budget session so we can if
need be allocate more money
to the budget line for
that -- those interested
individuals to be served
adequately.

>> Yeah, at this time no, we're not looking at cost containment.

What we're doing is more creative programming because of causes.

Creating community gardens by working with our friends in other areas.

But do we always need more money, the answer is yes,



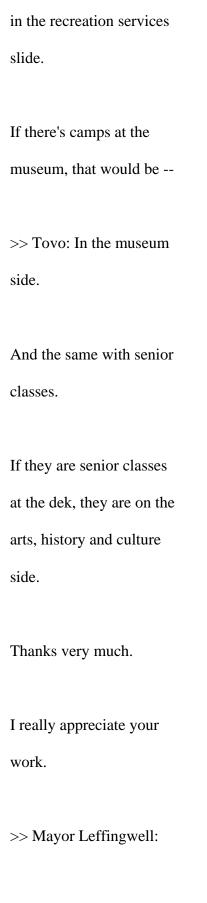
[10:52:00]

services are divided into
categories, but the
history arts and nature
including the nature science
center, the dak, I see thes
list of programs under here.

Is the recreation and program services strictly camp, and if there's a camp -- I mean it's the center city.

If there's a camp at the nature and science center, does it appear in recreation and program services or history arts and major?

>> If it's the camp at the rec center, it will appear



Before you leave, I have just a couple of comments.

First of all, I think we -and other councilmembers
have made these comments, we
have to make better use of
pickup private partnership
otherwise we're not going to
fund and maintain our parks
so I just encourage to you
continue along those lines.

Even, you know, increasing use adopt a park program, especially for people who live in those areas be given the opportunity to help maintain their neighborhood parks.

But also agreements with nonprofits.

And another quick item,
don't necessarily want to
comment on it, but the
problem with mace parking
continues to be a problem,
and the whole idea is that
the mace facility would have
preferential parking for
their events there.

There's a lot of people that
live in the neighborhood
here, a lot of new
commercial ventures,
especially barks and because
they are in the cbd they are
not required to have

[10:54:01]

parking.

We need to look at innovative ways to accomplish that goal of making sure there's adequate parking for their event.

One might be the charge for parking.

Set up a gate there at the entrance, people who come there for macc events, of course, could be much like we are here at city hall.

Have you legitimate business there at that facility, you could get your card stamped and not have to pay the fee.

Just encourage you to

and try to alleviate that problem.

And my final question is what is the status of the george versus joseph bonnell situation?

[Laughter]

you don't have to elaborate.

>> Mayor, it's -- it is not accepted by the historic commission, we've made every attempt to try to say that we were willing to look at this, and I'll be honest i read the packet of materials and there's a good case for it, but our commission is -- is not seeing that and not willing to --

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Is

that the texas historic --

>> that one, yes, primarily

that one.

And so we'll continue to be

supportive and like I said

I've read the packet and

there's a lot of points

there that certainly

indicate there's a wrong

naming.

But it's out of our hands.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: So

we'll leave it to the texas

historic commission to make

that decision?

>> Well, at this point we've

left it in their hands
because our own historic
commission is also in
agreement with that.

The one that we worked with on.

But I think those two
commissions are not willing
to take it any further and
it would have to be
something that if the
council wanted to address
this and it could be done
and we have a packet of
information that say it's
the wrong -- wrong person.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Got the wrong bonnell.

>> Yes.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: It kind of sound that way to me and I know there are a lot of people that feel very passionately about historic accuracy on that issue.

And just as a parting
comment, mount bonnell park
is another one of those
parks that frequently used
by folks, I don't know if
they are paying fees or not,
but workout groups,
especially on the weekends
and mornings and even
religious services are
conducted there.

>> Yes.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: I
think we need to take a look
at that.

Thank you.

>> Tovo: Mayor, one last comment.

I was asking so many
questions about the budget,
I for got to offer what i
wanted to say which was just
what a terrific job I think
you are doing in terms of
youth programs and what a
great reputation they have
in the community.

My colleagues may not know

but some of the summer camp programs especially people wait in line for a couple hours to register for, my husband did that for me this year and my girls had a great experience and that was what I heard from parents all over the community about the arts program and the nature and science programs and some of the other programs that are offered to youth in our community.

So I just want to commend you and your staff for doing such fine work at all of our facilities.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: The guy in the parks and

recreation department is rated number one in citizen satisfaction, so that's an accomplishment.

Councilmember morrison.

>> Morrison: These
questions brought up two
quick items.

We had a great discussion
with sara at audit and
finance when we were talking
about the cemeteries and
maintenance and upkeep, and
you mentioned hand-held
technology there and we
talked about you mentioned
it here in terms of that's
going to improve the
efficiency of our
maintenance work.

One of the things we heard in that discussion in audit and finance was the budget needed for those hand-held devices is relatively small.

Sit about 10,000?

It's about \$10,000.

[10:58:02]

Ctm has a plan for funding each of the departments, but the parks funding is a little bit on down the line and I wanted to ask if there is a way that our city manager could look into potentially shifting that

because 10,000, that
sequence, and include the
parks hand-held devices
earlier in the process
rather than later since it
is going to be such a key
and we are needing to do
everything that we can so
adjusting it \$10,000
somewhere along the lines, i
would appreciate it if you
could take a look at that.

And secondly you mentioned the holistic approach that's being taken for parking at the macc, boat house, rainey street area, and I wanted to highlight we have an item on our agenda this thursday that is related to that and that is we're -- there's an item to approve the sale of

a city piece of property on rainey street and as part of that sale they were going to be required to maintain 30 parking spaces.

And I guess I just wanted to know are we sure it's an all be parking or if we're doing a holistic approach, how do we know that's the right step to take now?

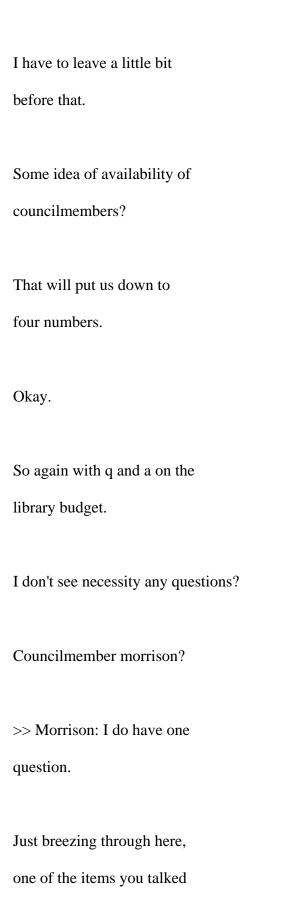
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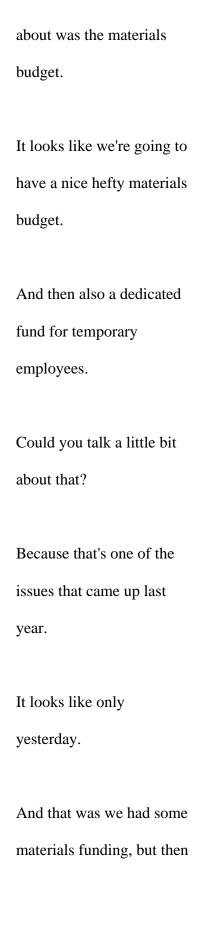
>> it will be parking that
is set aside for that
purpose for city use, for
city use.

>> Morrison: But if you're going down to rainey street

and you're not going to one of those, then you won't be allowed to use that parking. >> No. Part of this deal is they will be managing the parking, so those spots will be for city use. >> Morrison: Okay. Thank you. >> Mayor Leffingwell: Okay. Next we'll go to library. And before we begin, we're

scheduled to end this at 12.





we found that because of the need for the temporary employees some of that materials funding was getting shifted and there was some concern about are we not doing what we need to do for materials.

I wonder if you could talk about that.

>> [Inaudible - no mic].

... With materials money.

We didn't necessarily spend it.

We held it so that we wouldn't go over our budget.

And we were able in the past

not to spend materials budget.

And this year with the addition of these five temperatures we will not have -- five temps we will not have to hold materials budget at all.

>> Morrison: Okay.

I guess that brings a question up for me.

We budget for materials
spending because we know
that we're allow -- we're
low on it which is reflected
in the intention, so what
does that mean for the
materials budget and have we
been able to make up that

impact that we lost?

>> What we've done in the past is we've -- we typically have 20 to 30 temporaries that we need to keep the central library operating.

We held out in the past over 200,000.

Last year we held up to 500,000.

But we let temporaries go
towards the middle of the
year so that we wouldn't end
up impacting our materials
budget.

And then at the end of the year we released the budget,

the materials budget, so that we could spend it all by the end of the year.

>> Morrison: I see.

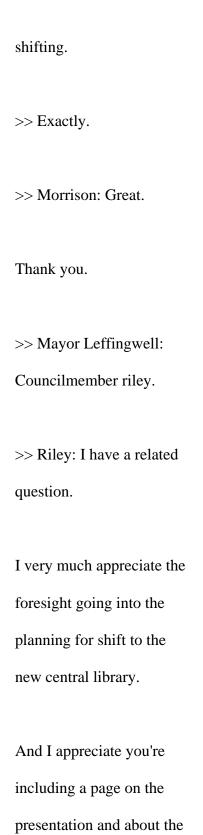
So all the money that was budgeted got spent.

>> Yes.

>> Morrison: But I guess
what I hear you saying now
is that we know we're going
to need temporary employees.

That's just part of running the library.

So that's why it's going to
be separated out and then it
will be carved out and we
won't have to do the



funding over the next four

years to get ready for the new central library.

Four million dollars is new capital funding for the new central library.

And this year alone we're
2 million
towards the materials
collection of the new
central library.

But I wanted to ask about -about an indirectly related
subject, which is as we move
those materials over to the
new central library, at some
point around 2016 we're
going to find that we have
an empty building there,
what is now the faulk
central library and the

history center has long hoped to expand into the faulk building.

But that going to take some work.

Of course, the faulk building is really not suitable for an archive al facility in its current state.

Is there anything that we're doing over the budgets in the next few years, in the intervening years between now and 2016, to help us get ready for those changes that will be necessary or are we looking at a couple of years when that's just going to be an empty building and we

have to look at a future
bond item in order to have
the funding available to
upgrade that building to be
able to house an extension
of the history center.

>> Once that building is
vacated once we move over to
the new central library, our
internal facilities services
department will do very
basic modifications to the
building so that it can
accommodate the move of the
history center over to the
current john henry faulk
building.

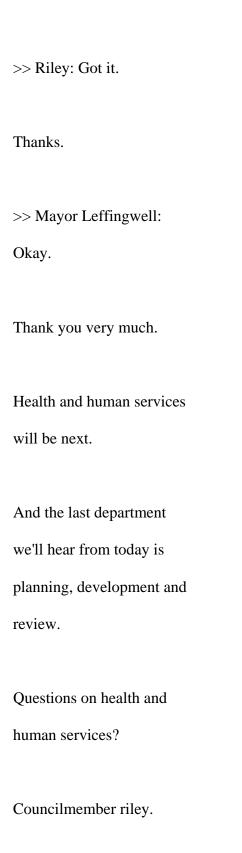
We will need a bond package, however, to fully renovate that building so that it can accommodate the archival

materials and so on.

>> Riley: So you expect
that we will be able to make
some temporary use of the
facility in its current
state, just to try to clear
out the hallways in the
current history center
building.

And then-- there will be a couple of years of interim temporary use of the facility and then we'll -- and then at that time we'll do additional planning work to be able to go forward with the bond to be able to do the necessary overhaul of the building.

>> That's correct.



>> Riley: I wanted to ask about a few things.

First, the african-american youth resource center.

We've been working on a council resolution, as councilmember martinez mentioned, we've been working with the resource center -- we've been working with the youth -- yes, that's right.

We've been working on an item on the agenda to find funding for the african-american resource center.

And I think it asks staff to see what you can do to find

that fund.

And I realize that's not an easy task, but I wanted to see if you had any initial thoughts on the prospects for being able to identify some funding for that -- the african-american youth resource center.

They're asking specifically for an additional \$102,000 to support their work there.

Is there anything that you could -- any preliminary thoughts on where we might be on being able to identify that additional funding.

>> What we'll do is work with the budget office and

try to see what possible sources of funding we can recommend for that.

I know the department will have to do that and we'll certainly be happy to see what we can come up with.

>> Riley: Great.

Another --

>> Martinez: Can I ask one follow-up at this point.

Burt, do we take a look at opportunities for organizations like the african-american resource center to assist them in applying for grants that they may be missing because

they don't have the personnel and folks available to draft those grants and make those applications?

>> Carlos rivera, director of health and human services.

Yes, we take every opportunity to invite folks to talk to us about grant opportunities.

But we haven't had anything official from them yet, but we've been talking about the partnerships extensively.

>> Martinez: So as part of this item, it may not explicitly be drafted into the item, but I certainly hope that we keep that as an option where we can connect them with funding sources that they may not be aware of.

>> Yes.

>> Martinez: Thanks.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Councilmember riley.

>> Riley: Another issue that we've been looking at and getting community input on relates to funding for early childhood and youth services.

With respect to early childhood programs, we know that there have been some changes as a result of the funding process that we went through.

When we took a look at all of our social service contracts and came one a funding matrix to overhaul our mechanism for funding those services, the results were some changes that may not have been intended.

And in particular with respect to youth services in the year -- in 2012 we're seeing a drop of some \$500,000.

In early childhood programs.

And that items expected to

fall another -- almost another half million in 2013.

So some very significant cuts.

There's also been some concerns about youth programs and in particular programs like the council on at risk youth, which do very valuable work.

And in both cases with
respect to both early
childhood and these youth
programs, the argument is
that investments at an early
stage will actually save
money down the road as well
as improving the lives of
all the many individuals

that are affected by this
funding and the matrix that
we came up with for scoring
the social services program
just didn't do a very good
job of recognizing the need
for funding at the earlier
stages of life.

So with all that in mind,
can you give us any insight
as to the prospects for
being able to identify some
additional funding to
support either the early
childhood or youth programs
that we've talked about?

>> Well, we're in a tough position over the short run.

Department doesn't really have any discretionary

funding for -- to fund folks
with, but we're already
beginning to look at the

which is two years away,
which is right around the
corner, and we want to
develop a strategic focus
for you, based on the life
continuum, the life-span as
opposed to like basic needs.

So it would take into account the needs of early learning and also adolescent development and prenatal, preconception care.

It is unfortunate and a little bit disheartening that what occurred occurred.

I know it wasn't intended

but we did divest in early learning by about 50%.

>> Clearly we've got a lot of work to do.

As carlos mentioned the continuum will be very what we would intend to do from here to the next budget is one of the first initiatives, which is the city council resolution that you've already adopted, has to do with the youth submit, and that's really take advantage of the organizations and the folks that are out there doing some good work along with the work that we already have been doing internally in terms of

inventorying all of our city youth programs, but even seeing where we may have overlaps and gaps.

And so the whole idea that is with the youth summit and then moving forward is to come back to city council and with a whole lot more strategic focus saying these are the programs that we're funding, these are the programs that are out there in the community as much as possible, gather what i would consider as much of a comprehensive set of information that we can and then come to you with specific recommendations on where are the needs.

Is it in the zero to three, is it in the 12 to 10, is it in ain't to 22?

Whatever the -- the 18 to 22?

Whatever the continuum indicates where we have the greatest need.

Obviously early childhood is probably going to fall in there, but it really would examine what's out there, what is really needed, and then come to you with a whole lot more strategic set of recommendations in terms of what we're currently doing, but also what we prospectively should be doing as well.

>> And I would add that we need to look beyond the absolute needs and look at opportunities for success.

There are many needs and we don't have the resources to make them all, but there are also some rock solid opportunities for success again like in early learning, which depends on which statistic you look like you get like a five to one return on your investment.

So we do need to really take
a close look at what's
achievable over the short
run and the long run.

>> Riley: Agreed.

And burt, with respect to the strategic prioritization that you're describing, what's the timing on that?

When might we see some recommendations?

>> Our goal is once we complete the work with the youth submit, what we would gear up to do is going to come back in plenty of time before the next budget which would be next fiscal year.

So that's what our timeline would be.

>> Riley: So that would be helpful for next year.

We may still have an issue for next year.

And it sounds like if we want to make some changes to be effective this year, we're going to need to find that funding somewhere outside the current budget?

>> That's correct.

And our thought with that,
councilmember, is is just
that it would help council
be a whole lot more
strategic in terms of where
the greatest needs are,
obviously understanding sort
of like what we ran across
with social services that
there will be a lot of

needs, but where do you start first and where do you make the best investment that you possibly can.

>> Riley: Okay.

The last thing I wanted to ask about is a couple of recommendations that we got from the sustainable food policy board.

They have suggested that we consider an outreach in marketing program for increasing snap enrollment and it also suggests matching dollars for farmers market and snap.

Have y'all had a chance to look at those

recommendations?

>> We're very familiar with the recommendations.

We have a matching program that i believe the -- we have to work a little harder to make sure that folks are using those coupons.

We do need to have more availability of farmers markets, just more place for our folks to go to make it more accessible to them.

But we have been taking these things into consideration.

And just benefits in

general, through our
neighborhood centers we're
making sure that folks are
applying for things that
they are eligible for.

We're trying to expand our ability to do that as within additional service.

>> Riley: Great.

I'll look forward to continued work on that.

Thanks for all you're doing.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Just to follow up a little bit, as you come up with next year's consume for grant funding, I would encourage you to get out there as soon as possible and do a lot of outreach and work with the organizations that receive grant funding.

I know it's always worst to have a big surprise at the end than it is to have worked with these folks all along so they can do their planning.

They can do their planning for private fund-raising and other grants that they might receive from sources other than the city of austin.

And the united way as we all know has made changed a significant way in the way they put out their grant funding and I think that

will change the way we do ours.

That has to be incorporated and may very well have an effect this year.

There may be changes that would be necessary as there were a couple of years ago when united way changed their grant funds.

So with that in mind -- just a quick question.

There's been a lot of discussion lately about the 15 waiver, but all that discussion has had to do with central health and how these waivers would benefit them.

In using local dollars to attract many more federal dollars.

46 in

their case.

How does this affect health and human services?

>> There's five percent of the overall pot of the \$1,115 are available to health departments in our region.

So essentially our region is ourselves and hays, hays county.

So we have an opportunity to capture those dollars.

The difficulty for us is
that we need to have money
up front in order to
initiate new programming.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: You have to spend money to get more money.

>> Right.

And right now we have four major programs that are -- comprise our wish list, but only one of them is funded.

And that's permanent supportive housing where we have \$100,000.

I mean, the key is that it has to be new, new

programming.

So old programming wouldn't be eligible.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Would the new funding, assuming that the bond propositions pass in november, there's money in there for affordable housing and certainly a part of that is permanent supportive housing, I hope a very large part, would that go towards helping secure 1115 waiver

>> It has to be for services.

money?

It can't be for capital.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Councilmember tovo.

>> Tovo: Thank you.

Just a couple of quick questions.

First of all, I wanted to thank you for your comments, lumbreras, about the youth summit, because it will help, especially as we get individual requests for funding.

And I know we all hear -- i
think it will help us as a
council evaluate just the
range of organizations out
there who may need some
additional support from the
city, and that will allow us

I think to make good decisions about where the highest critical needs are.

As you said, there is not a lot of discretionary money available, so I think it's very important if we're directing staff to look at identifying funding for particular organizations or do that in the context of the range of needs that are out there and the city identified priorities.

So I'm very excited about
the youth summit because i
think it will allow to us do
work with our community
stake holders who are also
inventorying the range of
needs and resources out

there.
So thank you for your work on that.
A couple of quick questions about the sustainability fund.
First an easy one about vending machines.
The department is eliminating its permitting fee for vending machines.
What does that mean?
What kind of vending machines?
>> Sherri lane, health and human services financial

services.

Historically we've had vendors come and request permits to have vending machines in their facilities.

And over the last several years we have not had any requests from those vendors, so we eliminated that fee because we haven't had any requests.

>> Tovo: Are these vending machines with snacks and drinks?

>> Snacks and drinks, yes.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Cokes and snickers.

>> Not in health and human services.

There are some cokes, but we are making our choices much health yardangs thanks to wong -- healthier thanks to dr. wong.

>> Tovo: That's one of the reasons it caught my eye.

So in other words, in the neighborhood centers there have been vending machines and permits.

I don't understand the contracts.

>> They're not city vends machine, they're from

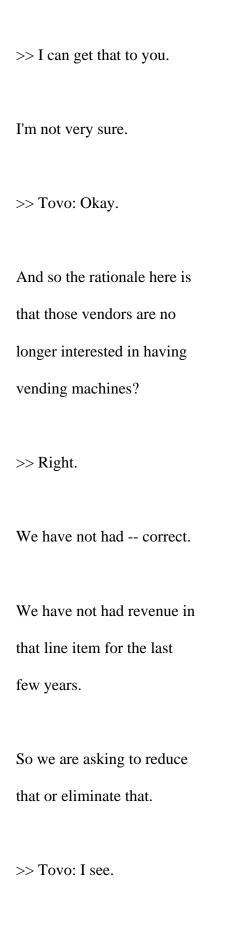
outside vendors.

And what we can do is I can get a list of the types of vendors who are coming in requesting it.

I don't have the information with me, but we can get a list of who has historically requested these permits.

>> Tovo: I guess I was really trying to find out where they're requesting permits to locate those.

Where are they trying to put those -- when they are requesting a permit, where are they trying to locate those vending machines?



Do you think that has some relationship to the healthier snacks?

>> Possible.

>> Tovo: But I fully support the emphasis on healthier snacks.

>> We're doing well in that category.

>> Tovo: Okay.

And with regard to the sustainability fee, I see a few things that are proposed to be shifted -- the sustainability fund.

And I wanted to talk about

the one identified a 181 first.

Five employees are being transferred to the block grant from the -- and these had previously been funded by the sustainability fund.

Do you have a sense of what might have been funded through the block grant that will now not be able to be funded by that block grant because of this transfer?

>> At the beginning of last fiscal year the grant had been cut by 50%, which made it necessary for us to have some sustainability funds in order to keep the folks employed and have the

Then the state has fully
funded us this year.
And moving forward, as a
10-year situation, we don't
know what next year's
funding will be, but we're
fully funded for the
upcoming year.
>> Tovo: Did you say
10-year situation or
tenuous?
>> Tenuous.
>> Tovo: I was hoping you
said 10-year.
>> That would be great.

resources available.

>> Tovo: That's just a
matter of this transfers
just because you won't need
to use the sustainability
fund to fund those because
they can be funded through
the block grant and they
have been funded in the past
by the block grant.

>> Yes.

>> Tovo: Thanks for that clarification.

And on 182 I see the social service contract, funding for contracts with agencies providing basic needs and homeless services and for the african-american youth resource center will come from the general fund rather

than the sustainability fund.

I know one of my colleagues raised a question about that earlier about funding for the youth resource center, but it looks like it's contemplated within this budget already.

Is that just an ongoing -is that part of the ongoing
commitment?

>> Yes.

That was funding that was given to the youth resource center last year.

They received some contract dollars that will go through

fiscal year '13 and so that is the -- historically in the last few years it was funded through the sustainability fund and for '13 it was transferred into the general fund.

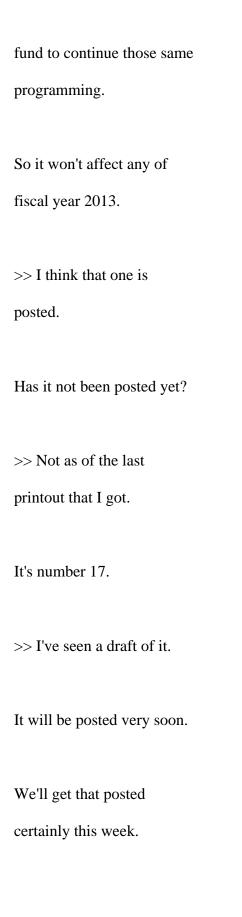
>> Tovo: So we had a little discussion about this in one of our budget work sessions about the sustainability fund.

And I think staff are going to get back to us on some of the history of the fund and its mission and purpose as we talk about some of these transfers that are being made from sustainability fund dollars back to departmental budgets.

But I wondered if you could give me a sense of whether that had -- whether this transfer had impacted any of your other programs because obviously it's -- I guess it should be a question for what else in the general fund may not be able to be funded this year if this transfer happens from the sustainability fund.

>> The transfer doesn't
affect our ability to
continue our current level
of programming.

It is just a transfer from the dollars that were in the sustainability fund were transferred into the general



And just following up on what carrie was saying, really what we're doing here is looking at what was the most appropriate source for these basic needs services, homeless services, youth services that has historically been funded out of this sustainability fund, ostensibly being funded by the enterprise operations.

And we've had the discussion of when we were looking at that that we felt the more appropriate funding source was the general fund.

So with the fiscal year '13 budget before you, you're starting to see more of those services funded out of the general fund as opposed to the sustainability fund, and that would be the direction and that would be staff's intent to continue in that direction over the next few budget cycle.

But there's no reductions happening here, it's just a matter of are those dollars in the general fund or are they in the sustainability fund.

So the general fund is a bigger budget than it would have otherwise been by about 3 million and the sustainability fund is a smaller budget than it otherwise would have been by \$1.3 million.

But we're not changing the services we're providing, just changing the source.

>> Tovo: Okay.

Thanks.

>>

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Councilmember morrison.

>> Morrison: So I'm still struggling to try and make sure I understand that whole issue with the sustainability fund.

But really I wonder if you could go back to slide number 25, which is along

with 26 talking about significant changes in the budget.

And it says -- I'm not sure
4 million refers
to.

Could you just give me an overview of this and the next slide and what they're saying?

>> Sure.

So when we look at the significant changes of the department, we go through and look at all the increases and decreases that will happen in fiscal year '13.

So the first 521,000 are the market increases, the wage adjustments, the health insurance increases for the departments.

And then when we go down further into the departmental changes --

>> Morrison: You don't have to walk through each one of them.

I just wanted the big picture.

So here on this page we have some chunk of change that is an increasing cost to running the department.

>> Correct.

>> Morrison: Including 5 million in what used to be sustainability, coming out of the sustainability fund. >> Correct. >> Morrison: So did the departmental budget go bye-bye \$4.4 million? >> No. It was a net decrease of 4 million -->> Morrison: Is that what that means? Significant change means it's decreased by 4.4.

>> Correct.

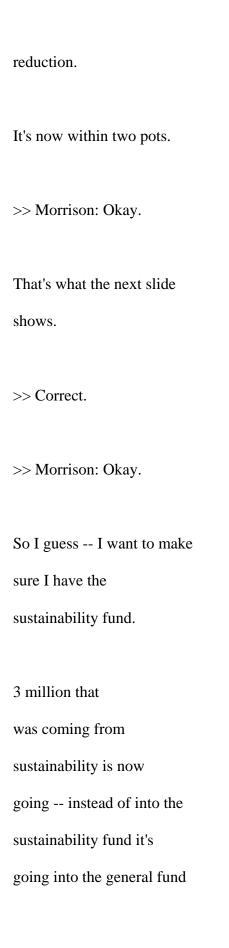
And included in that is the change of animal services into their own office.

>> Morrison: You have something to say?

>> No.

It's a decrease because of the animal services, about seven and a half million dollars used to be included in the health unlet budget and now it's its own budget item.

So there's a reduction in health and human services, but it's not really a



and then into health and human services?

Or is the general fund not being bumped up by that amount of money?

>> No.

The general fund is being bumped up by \$1.3 million.

The sustainability fund is smaller by that amount and therefore the amount of money that the enterprise operations are contributing to the sustainability fund is lower.

So in particular this year the drainage fund has historically contributed

around 6 or \$700,000 a year to the fund. >> Morrison: To which fund? >> To the sustainability fund. >> Morrison: Is that now going -- part of it, is it now going to the general fund? >> No. That transfer to the sustainability fund goes away.

So the drainage fund

sustainability fund.

transfers to the

It just allows them to take
that money and now direct it
towards drainage projects or
other needs that that
department has or to help
keep the drainage fee lower
than it otherwise would be.

Ditto for the water utility.

They used to contribute about five million, four and a half, five million dollars.

And this amount is a little lower now, about five or six hundred thousand dollars lower, which begin gives the water utility those resources to allocate other projects or needs that they

have, but the funding now is in the general fund.

Those programs are now in the general fund so the general fund, the amount of money we need to make the general fund balance is higher than it otherwise would be.

>> Morrison: Precisely.

I think that's the key point that is really a significant policy issue that we need to be thinking about as a council.

And that's why it's so important to me to be able to get that context of how the sustainability fund was

created and why.

And why it was created in the first place.

Because the bottom line is
we have the enterprise fund
specifically designating
some of their monies, a
small portion of their
monies to support the
priorities which I assume
were council priorities
associated with the -- what
goes into the sustainability
fund.

And so now with this shift away from that, we need to realize that there's less money -- what would be -- i don't know quite how to say it, but the general fund dollars has to go farther.

The general fund dollars
have to go farther and we no
longer have this designated
fund to address
sustainability issues that
was funded by the enterprise
fund.

So I really -- for me that's of grave concern.

And let me say also I think that what you were saying, rivera, about the 1115 waiver that they need to be new year's eve programs, that we need to find new money for them.

That means that every dollar that we can't find to put

into a new program leaves \$1.43 on the table.

And I think that especially, especially in this time when we are working with in the really fabulous way with all the other entities around our region to maximize our \$1,115 that I think we need to seriously think about maintaining some of that stability fund and maybe even think specifically -- i know you guys did a terrific job of putting together potential programs that could go with the 1115 waiver.

Did you pass that out just to the health and human services committee or was that to all councilmembers?

>> I think it went to all councilmembers.

I'm pretty sure it did.

>> Morrison: Okay.

Because I think that health and human services did a fabulous job of looking at that, but the bottom library is we're leaving some -- the bottom line is we're leaving some monies on the table, dropping that one, which are a very small shift from our enterprise funds to invest in sustainability.

And that means that there are dollars we're -- federal

dollars we're leaving on the table.

>> If I might, I certainly
agree there were some very
large policy issues raised
in regard to this issue.

And I think from an historical standpoint the fund was created at the same time when the general fund simply couldn't sustain a level of investment in programs that at times in the past that the council was interested in.

More recently you all have had some conversations and discussions about the various things that get supported by allocation of

dollars from our enterprise
operation and some of that
is the desire to wean
ourselves off of that
because it didn't seem
appropriate for some of our
enterprise operations to be
funding some of the things
that they are.

And in the course of that
discourse one of the things
that we said is that it's -in terms of resolving that,
our approach would be more
incremental because the
general fund couldn't
withstand wholesale transfer
of things that even are more
appropriately funded within
the general fund because of
the cost associated with
that and had been built up

over time.

As ed said in some of these earlier remarks, this is at least an attempt to begin to recognize those programs and services that we believe.

And in right light of your more recent conversations, more commonly by the general fund.

That doesn't diminish the significance of having the larger overarching policy discussion because I think there are some conflicting things going on as well.

So I think to have that kind of discussion and get some clarity will help to guide

us in regard to whatever your priorities are going to be.

>> Morrison: I appreciate that.

And I know when we were talking about austin energy and their transfer at this point we've made a pretty significant change in the way we're structuring that.

I didn't realize that we were talking about -- and maybe I just am forgetting, all enterprise funds --

>> even when that was created, at the time they contemplated austin energy participating in that, but

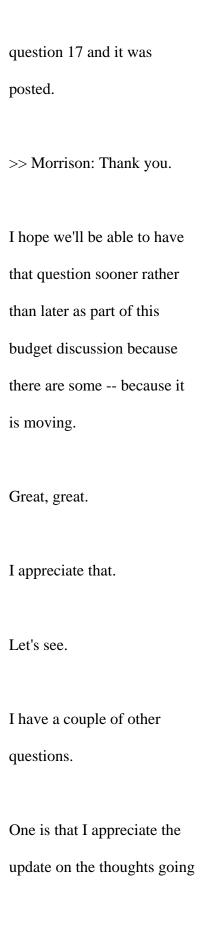
there were reasons why and decisions made that it wasn't appropriate, as i recollect, for austin energy to participate.

So it was a discussion many years ago and it's relevant today.

The circumstances of course are a little bit different, but nevertheless a policy dialogue to have, I think.

>> Morrison: And I think
once we get some of the
background material through
that question, and maybe we
already do have it and i
have an outdated list.

>> It is council budget



into the social service contracting take 2.

Because that was a really hard process.

And you're talking about using sort of a life cycle continuum as a way to look at things.

We had struggled quite a
bit, councilmember martinez,
I know will remember this,
in terms of getting our
footing and what kind of
spectrum do we want to use
and it was the
prioritization and the
scoring and certainly early
childhood education was
included under one of the
priorities that we had.

But what I want to suggest is that we not -- that we actually think about the possibility of layering these two spectrums.

I've seen some really
wonderful, and I'm sure you
have too, life cycle sort of
spectrums laid out of
infancy and all that kind of
stuff.

And then it becomes a matrix.

And you talk about basic
needs and prevention and
transition out of poverty
and all of that because i
think that we don't want to
swing too far in one

direction.

>> And that's exactly what it would look like.

We're going to again reduce -- it's all conceptual right now, but five major categories or subcategories out of that.

>> Morrison: Great, great.

Let's see -- can you give us
any hard dates on when we
and on owe we as a council,
we as a subcommittee, public
health and human services
subcommittee with a
community, I know you're
already working with I think
one voice who had some
really important input, when

we might start seeing certain steps along the way of this process.

>> And I'm meeting with my executive leadership team today to start putting some substance to the framework.

I would think three months probably, maybe a little sooner than that.

Again, we have a tight timeline, two years left is awarded.

So we want to be in a position to have enough lead time in order to have folks or the concept fully vetted.

>> Morrison: And

lumbreras, I know you

mentioned with the youth

summit one of the things

we'll be looking at is where

the gaps and overlaps are to

figure out where to spend

our money.

And frankly overall we need

to be doing that, especially

as the mayor mentioned, with

other major funders shifting

their focus and having to

sort of divest from various

areas.

Really challenging, but

we'll do better this time.

>> We will.

>> Morrison: Okay.

And then just a last point, and that is you mentioned in terms of trying to make sure that we maximize sign-up for folks that are eligible for programs and in our neighborhood centers we're doing that, there is a program I think that you all have gotten engaged with, and that is the benefit bank of texas.

And is that what you're talking about in terms of getting those into the different neighborhood centers?

>> Yeah.

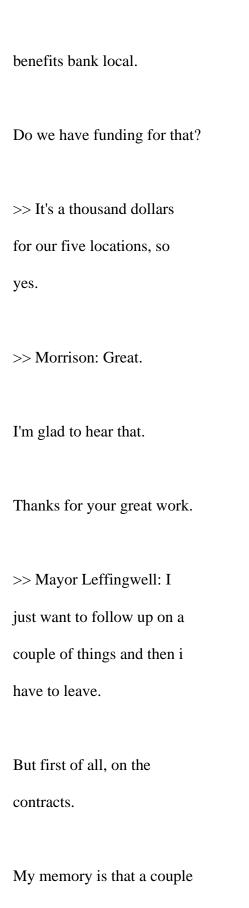
There's two separate

efforts, the benefit bank
we'll have that effort at
every one of our
neighborhood centers and
partnership with central
health.

And then the united way is also -- they're also piloting benefits bank type of -- a matching process where they can make sure that folks -- when they call 211 also have access to that information.

So we're going to partner with them on that also.

>> Morrison: And i
understand there is a fee,
but a very minimal fee to be
able to have -- to be a



of years ago the policy
decision was made to shift
the emphasis to basic needs.

And that was primarily in response to what other grantors were doing, that they were shifting their funding away from basic needs.

And there was one year when we actually had to step in midyear and give additional money to my recollection is the salvation army because they had been cut out entirely.

So I just want to reemphasize that is my understanding of the policy that this council has agreed

to, that the priority in grant funding would be basic needs.

And the second comment i
want to make with regard to
sustainability is this grew
out of the somewhat lengthy
discussions with regard to
austin energy in the earlier
part of this year that
austin energy had been
disproportionately funding
sustainability.

And a decision was made to go back and take a look, and spread that out in an equitable way pro rata among the various enterprises and the general fund departments that were appropriate for that.

So just to clarify that's my understanding of the policy that the city council adopted recently with regard to funding sustainability items, that part of that would come now under the general fund.

So with that, I have to leave.

I'm going to turn the chair over to councilmember martinez.

>> Tovo: Councilmember martinez, can I ask a follow-up comment about that?

Thanks.

So you know, I'm looking over the budget response, but I guess I want to be clear on this.

I don't remember as part of our austin energy work session adopting a policy related to changing the focus of the sustainability fund.

I'm looking in particular at the q and a, and it says the fund was established by council in the 2000-2001 budget cycle as a mechanism for enterprise operations to invest in the community by funding initiatives.

I'm exerting.

For more sustainability
economic and environmental,
equitability infrastructure.

And skipping down it says in order to address equity in the economy in fiscal year 2010-2011 it was recommended that the finance workforce initiatives and a child care housing initiative.

I haven't had a chance to delve into it because I'm looking at it for the first time now.

But there has not been -one, it was recommended by
council or do you have a
sense of how that got
expanded to include those

additional areas in

2010-2011?

>> It was part of staff's recommendation to count that they approved.

>> Tovo: So it wasn't a
council decision to expand
that, the focus of the
sustainability fund, it was
a staff decision as part of
the budget process that was
then approved by council?

>> Right.

And you will recall that -you might not recall, but
that was a very difficult
budget year, so it was one
of the mechanisms at our
disposal in order to try to

maintain those critical services, but take some of the pressure off the general fund, which was out of balance at the time.

>> Tovo: Got it.

Thank you.

So just to get back to the discussion we've been having, I think if we are shifting from workforce development, affordable housing, narrowing the focus back to environmental, some of the other issues, then i absolutely agree with councilmember morrison that's a policy discussion that we need to have.

And it's not one I believe we had during the austin energy rate case.

While we did certainly talk
about the transfer and some
of the other issues
associated with that, which
are similar and we talked
about the sustainability
fund as part of that, i
think we need a more focused
discussion on this issue.

>> Martinez: All right.

Any other questions?

Thanks, guys.

The last department we'll try to get through before noon if we can is the

planning and department review department.

Welcome mr. guernsey.

>> Good morning.

>> Riley: I want to start
with the best slide that
shows the performance
measures for your
department.

And it looks like we're seeing some very encouraging projections for the coming year.

I just wanted to ask you comment on that.

And that of course is a result of the adjustment

that we made recently to increase -- to bring our fees more in line with our peer cities and be able to staff the department and have timely views so we'll be back up to 90% of the initial commercial building plan reviews within the code mandated time of 21 days.

And then getting up to 95% of the inspections performed within 20 hours of the request so it looks very encouraging.

Is there anything that you
want to add with respect to
the progress we're making in
the wake of the adjustments
that were made recently with
respect to the fees and

staffing?

>> Thank you, councilmember.

I appreciate the midyear adjustment in june that you had to add those -- the positions not only in my department, but also to the fire department.

And that is correct.

We did raise the initial goal for building plan reviews within the code mandated time, 21 days back up to 90, with the additional staff it's anticipated that our department and the fire department will train these folks and will work over the

course of this coming year to actually get that closer to 90.

The inspectors, we had three inspectors as well.

And we're going to try to maintain the level of getting those inspections done the next day at 95%.

>> Riley: Great.

I notice at least on the first goal that adopted the commercial building plan reviews that that's higher than any time since '06.

We're actually going to be doing better than any time in the projected time frame.

If we went back and looked further, would we see any time that we were actually doing better?

I guess one might ask since the land development code mandates a time of 21 days, shouldn't our goal be to hit 100%?

Have we ever been higher?

>> We can go back and look.

We've increased our goal back up to 90% and we'll work towards that goal.

I think there was a concern that we were trying to shoot for a golfball-size hail that was much -- for a goal that was much lower.

So the idea is to shoot for something higher.

That is a projected number.

It's not going to exactly
happen that way, but over
the course of the next year
we'll certainly strive for
that goal.

>> Riley: Maybe once we hit that point we can talk about doing better in coming years.

I want to congratulate you on the improved prospect even if we haven't done it as of this date.

Things are better than they were a few months ago.

I had a question on the previous slide on the budget highlights.

The phase two subchapter e
design standards and i
wanted to know if you had a
quick update on where we are
on that.

>> We're working on some right now.

We're trying to provide a little bit more flexibility regarding building glazing, kind of like covering the windows and things like that.

Also we're trying to take
the regulations that we have
for larger sites and trying
to group them together.

Right now it's difficult to
work through the commercial
design standards because
there are bits and pieces
that are kind of strung out
through the commercial
design standards and trying
to bring those back
together.

We're also trying to add some clarity to those things it where you're doing some small additions.

At what point do you actually kick in commercial

design standards?

So we're working with stakeholders right now.

It's not something that happens overnight.

We'll be working with them and trying to bring that forward.

But those are probably the three larger areas that we're looking at bringing some clarity and changes to to hopefully make it easier for everyone to comply.

>> Riley: There have been concerns expressed about subchapter e and how well it works.

So just so we'll know, of
the various efforts you
mentioned do any of those
involve wholesale assessment
of subchapter e, revisiting
how well it works and ways
that can be made more
effective or is that kind
after larger, more holistic
stakeholder effort that
we'll have to look through
in the future?

>> I think it is an ongoing effort and certainly we're discussing a code rewrite and we'll be looking at how these design things interact.

But as an ongoing process, not a quick fix to

commercial design standards
to make it perfect from
everybody's standpoint.

>> Riley: You raise an interesting point because the -- of course the rewrite of the code is proceeding really independently of the review of subchapter e.

And how do you see those two efforted meshing.

Do you see that subchapter e
might be improved based on
conversations that take
place in the course of the
whole code rewrite?

Or is there or is there something else that you have in mind?

>> I think the question to
your question is yes,
whether you're talking about
commercial design standard
or other sections of the
code.

As we go in the code rewrite there is really an emphasis of making it predictable, being consistent, more simple for any user to use, whether it's a developer or neighborhood representative or staff.

And so taking a look at
those in the context of a
larger quota is very
important not only in
looking at the code
regulations themselves or

the commercial design standards.

>> Riley: Okay.

So we have a lot of work ahead of us on both the whole code rewrite and (indiscernible) in particular.

Thanks, greg.

>> Martinez: Greg, back in the spring some folks had suggestions about the turnaround time for inspections and site plan reviews.

I wanted to ask, have you been in talks with some of the private sector folks

about what they considered kind of a third-party ombudsman, facilitator person?

>> We took a look at certainly the third party.

It's a little bit more difficult in austin to use third party.

Some of the neighboring communities, like cedar park.

We have some unique developments related to austin, whether its

McMANSION REGULATIONS OR

Commercial design standards.

So it makes it more

difficult to actually farm out to a third party.

They actually would have to sign off.

We might actually be paying more for that service in order for those folks to actually look at providing a review service for commercial design standards McMANSION.

And actually lessens our flexibility of staff to make a decision to approve because we're basically transferring that to that third party.

I think some of the things that we've done as far as

adding the positions that we have will make it easier for quick turnaround, which is very important for those commercial users trying to move into the tenant space quicker.

So we're trying to place more emphasis on that.

So I think we heard from the development community, small businesses, large businesses about trying to occupy those spaces more quickly.

That that was really an important piece in moving them into the spaces and getting them open.

Some of the other things

that we've done over the
past year, just to catch up,
as far as using some over
time and temporaries, i
think that has helped
tremendously in the
commercial building plan.

>> Martinez: What about things like an engineering approval?

If we had a process where engineers could become certified by the city of austin, we still recover the traditional fees, but they could add a fee on top of that.

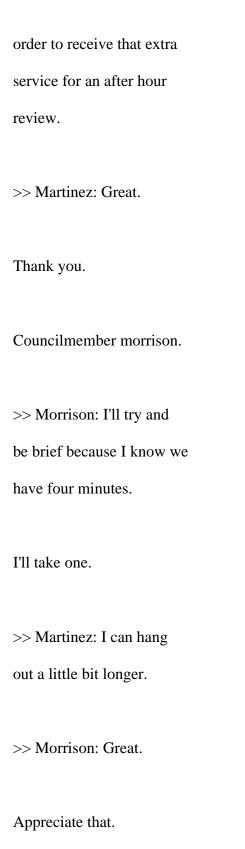
So as a private developer it may be worth it to me to go pay a few extra bucks

knowing that I'm going to get an engineer's stamp on this in a return time that is more conducive to the project times that I'm on.

>> We have looked at and are continuing to look at that.

As you may recall before the budget amendment, some places, for instance, like dallas, offer an accelerated review where that money would go to basically funds paying for overtime of staff people.

And we are looking at that as something that the development community is certainly interesting in paying that extra money in



I had the opportunity to
meet with you, greg, and
city manager, and the brain
trust of staff, if you ask
me, on our city code, to
talk about the land
development code, the ldc
rewrite.

And I just wanted to share that with my colleagues here.

And I think that -- I know staff is developing a process for how that's all going to work, thinking about consultants, and we expect maybe to have a broader conversation.

If I recall properly at the planning commission at cpt,

our comprehensive plan and transportation committee, and then also with the whole council.

So I appreciate that because as councilmember riley brought up, it is complicated.

How we align -- we can't stop everything while we rewrite the code, but how we align that.

I do have a question about the design standards.

It's one of the budget highlights.

Does that mean that there are some budget impacts to

that or is that a big effort that you're -- that is part of this budget?

>> No.

We can work with the commercial design standard changes in-house right now.

When we talk about doing the code rewrite, certainly we'll be looking at more holistically.

But we're working with in-house staff right now on changes to subchapter e.

>> Morrison: Okay.

And I did -- I think george adams sent out a memo some

months ago that had the changes as they currently stand.

And one thing of course that stood out to me, which had been a pretty controversial issue and had been dropped, was the neighborhood site design standards.

And I know that there's a lot of interest in that.

So will that be -- are some of the neighborhood associations part of that stakeholder group?

>> I believe there are -- i believe I can get back to you and tell you who is actually participating. >> Morrison: Okay.

That would be great.

And I notice there are three neighborhood plans.

Can you tell which ones those are?

>> We've been on the
northside of the river and
so we're heading back south
and picking up three
neighborhoods on southside
of austin, south manchaca,
garrison park, and westgate.

And those are the three that you've actually kicked off that process and we've started that, working in

those neighborhoods already.

>> Morrison: Great.

And another thing we had talked to the city manager about is the potential of doing an update to the dove springs neighborhood plan as sort of a way to align city resources with the great work that's going on down there.

Do you have any schedule for updates to other neighborhood plans?

>> No, but I can get back to you and I'll also explore with parks and the health department about their efforts that are in dove

springs right now.

>> Morrison: That's great.

And it made me think a little bit more broadly, and that is that we might think about just in general trying to do some updates to the neighborhoods that might have high needs that have other things going along at the same time.

Just to make sure that we can leverage all that.

And then this I think is probably not a pdr question, but I notice in the newspaper today on the front page talking about waller creek and funding and the

facelift part of it, how it's going to be funded.

There was a comment by staff that there was eight million dollars in our current budget that will be going to that effort beyond the \$13 million in bonds, and then they thought they could cobble together nine million dollars next year.

So this would be a budget question for me and that is where is that funding coming from?

>> Well, I had heard about the eight million.

I'm struggling a little bit about the cobbling piece.

I'll have to get back to you. We'll get you some information to explain what was said in the paper. >> Morrison: All right. Thank you. >> Martinez: Councilmember tovo. >> Tovo: This may be somewhat related. I see the budget highlights page mentions waller creek and some other projects.

But the daytime funding

project, streetscape
improvement projects, phase
two, subchapter e design
standards, I see -- my basic
question is where are these
in our budget data so that
we can see what the cost
associated with these are?

And in particular the downtown (indiscernible) project and the streetscape improvement project?

>> I don't have the page
number off the top of my
head but I can give that
we will be coming back
next month and will brief
you on the downtown way
finding plan.

So just so you know, that's

coming up next month on the 27th.

We'll work on phase two of the way finding and that consists more of the engineering and the design elements of that.

But I'll get back with you on the page number.

>> Tovo: I tried to look
through quickly and I don't
see those -- I don't see -I don't see these reflected
in our budget document in a
way that would allow me to
determine what the cost
associated with those are.

And samsung and apple, same thing.

So if those are indeed highlights of the project --

>> I think those are just to let you know that there are things that may be coming that may effect us.

That probably would not be found in the budget documents.

[One moment, please, for change in captioners]
.. it's making them more efficient.

Can you tell us just briefly where we are on that effort to try to make our process more modernized and update our process.

>> In the last three months
people I have
have actually started to
look at different programs
that are out there.

We're also looking at our existing program, amanda, how we can make enhancements to bring us closer to electronic plan review.

We have limited funds within our budget right now to begin that process and look at those packages that we would bring in before we would probably go forward, we would make sure our stakeholders are aware of that process, they are still able to work with us about

making [inaudible].

We've in the past year or so asked for some electronic information up front with our current application, but people bring in those plans are already in electronic format but they are not used right now for the actual review by my reviewers.

>> Riley: Do you have any sense of time frame in terms of when we would be ready to take plans [inaudible]?

>> I think I would probably
want to get back with you on
a schedule we have.

I don't think it's a firm schedule at the moment.

I might be able to come up with some tentative milestones.

>> Riley: Appreciate all
your work on that and I know
a lot of folks in the
development community would
appreciate [inaudible].

>> Martinez: It doesn't look like there's any more questions so we stand adjourned.

Or do you have -- is there a last slide of -- of what's next and when so the public will know?

>> We actually covered that as one of our opening

slides.

What's next is on wednesday
we're going to be back with
presentations from our
public safety departments,
our two major utilities,
energy and water, also
resource recovery and code
compliance will be
presenting on wednesday.

There are budget and tax
rate hearings scheduled for
august 23rd and
august 30th where the
community can come down and
talk to council, provide
their input on the budget
and tax rate, and then
budget readings and adoption
is set to occur
september 10th through the

12th.

That's the remainder of the process.

>> Martinez: It's my
understanding that the
august 30th meeting is a
regularly scheduled council
, but
it's only a public hearing
on bbudget.

>> It's only a public hearing on the budget.

It's once we had to work
with the mayor's office in
order to meet our truth
statement and have
everything line up for
budget adoptions.

>> Martinez: Okay.

Thank you.